

Irish Radio Transmitter Society Radio News Bulletin

Sunday 12 March 2023

HAREC Exam date

The next HAREC examination is scheduled for Saturday, the 13th of May 2023. There will be two examinations held in Dublin. The location will be the Belville Suite in the Radisson Blu hotel, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. Registration for the morning session will commence at 10 a.m. and the examination will run from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Registration for the afternoon examination will commence at 1.30 p.m. and the examination will run from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Details of the hotel can be found at www.radissonhotels.com. There will be one examination held in Cork, the location will be the Clayton Silver Springs Hotel, Tivoli, Cork. This will be on the morning of the 13th. Registration will commence 10 a.m. and the examination will run from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Details of this hotel can be found at www.claytonhotelsilversprings.com. For those who have previously applied but have not yet indicated their intention to sit this exam please contact [irts.exams /at/ gmail.com](mailto:irts.exams/at/gmail.com) with confirmation of their preferred venue and their preference regarding the morning or the afternoon session, if you choose Dublin. There should be plenty of capacity for all those wishing to attend, however demand will increase as we get closer to the date so we suggest you get your preference in as early as possible. If you have not previously applied to sit the HAREC examination, full details can be found on the IRTS website, including the application form. This can be completed and sent to [irts.exams /at/ irts.ie](mailto:irts.exams/at/irts.ie) if you wish to get on the list for the 13th of May.

Please also note that there is a concessionary fee of €25 for those who qualify, including those candidates who wish to resit an examination. All queries in regard to this examination should be sent to [irts.exams /at/ irts.ie](mailto:irts.exams/at/irts.ie).

YOTA Camp in Spain

The IARU Region-1 Youth Working Group has announced its next YOTA Subregional Camp. This will be from the 30th of April to the 2nd of May in the city of San Lorenzo de El Escorial, near Madrid, in cooperation with the Spanish Amateur Radio Association URE. The Spanish Team will be able to host around thirty participants overall, with a preference given to applications from neighbouring countries. The original report and application form can be found on the IARU Region-1 website.

St Patricks Day Activities

Collective Communications will be flying the flag of EI3CC at Tramore in County Waterford on the 17th of March where our new mobile shack will have its inaugural outing while participating in the St. Partick's Day parade. The parade will start at 1.30pm local time and afterwards we will be setting up the shack to operate on HF and VHF at the main entrance to the amusement park. The high footfall will enable the public to witness and experience Amateur Radio first hand. In addition we will be passing out information flyers about Collective Communication and the IRTS. Anyone interested in radio as a hobby will be able to see for themselves what is involved and chat to our club members. We would love to meet other amateurs, yet to be amateurs, SWLs and yet to be SWLs. All are welcome. So take a trip to Tramore this Friday and drop by for a chat and a cuppa while enjoying the merriment of our National Day on the sunny south coast of County Waterford. For more information please phone John, EI3HQB on 086 870 9265

Philip, Mi0MSO/Ei8GPB invites us to register for the St Patrick's Day Award event, taking place over a 48-hour period from 12 noon UTC on the 16th March to 12 noon UTC on the 18th March. The St Patrick's Day Award is 48 hours of non-competitive fun. Anyone worldwide can participate, licensed operators and SWLs can take part in this fun event. You can register to be a participating station for the St Patrick's Day award by completing a short registration form online at stpatricksaward.com

The second EI Flora and Fauna St. Patrick's Activity Weekend runs from the 17th to the 19th. If you can get out over the weekend and activate a park that would be great. Please advise Jer EI3HGB or Declan EI9HQ by email at [eifflogs /at/ gmail.com](mailto:eifflogs/at/gmail.com) of the areas you plan to activate, avoiding duplication. The EIFF webpage is at eifirl.wordpress.com .

IMD at the Museum of Vintage Radio in Howth

It is twenty years since the late Pat Herbert founded Ye Olde Hurdy Gurdy Museum of Vintage Radio in Howth. EI0MAR was established there that same year. In conjunction with International Marconi Day, which takes place on the 22nd of April, Pat's son Simon plans a day of celebration at the museum. The Mayor of Howth will be also be in attendance. EI0MAR has always taken part in IMD so why not come along and celebrate with us this special year? Guest operators are especially welcome. The Martello tower, in which the museum is located, is where Lee deForrest, the inventor of the triode valve, demonstrated his wireless telegraphy system to engineers of the British Post Office in 1903. Two years later The Marconi Company set up an experimental wireless receiving station in the tower to monitor transmissions from a vessel sailing to different locations in the Irish Sea. Engineers from the BPO also

observed these tests. This is a wonderful opportunity to operate from this historic location, We hope to see you there!

HAM & JAM! - Bringing Amateur Radio, STEM enthusiasts & educators together!

The South Dublin Radio Club brings Amateur Radio, STEM enthusiasts and educators together at their event on Tuesday, the 18th of April, from 19:30 to 21:30. Ham & Jam is a free informal meet-up opportunity for radio enthusiasts and those from the digital maker and education communities. The idea is to encourage conversations, learning and new friendships between like-minded people. The event features a "Show and Tell" area with radio-related projects made with various types of micro-controllers and computers, a live FT8 digital modes radio station sending and receiving signals worldwide, and Software-defined radio projects showing how to decode weather satellites and receive AIS live data from ships. There will be talks and demos on "Ham-Pi" Raspberry Pi applications for Ham Radio, on "TinyGS" Ground Stations that receive and operate LoRa satellites and other flying objects, plus an Information stand on ARISS, the group that arranges special amateur radio contacts between students and the International Space Station. If you're a STEM enthusiast or educator you will find many ideas on how radio can bring key learning to life, with plenty of friendly 'radio heads' present to answer your questions. If you're a radio amateur, SWL or hobbyist and want to know more about the world of Arduino, Raspberry-Pi, BBC micro:bit and such, come along too! For Contact details and directions, please see our website at www.southdublinradioclub.weebly.com/contact.html .

Locator Square IO37DO

Rockall, IOTA EU-189 has been visited by 110 people during the past two centuries, and only 5 of them are known to have spent the night on the rock. Led by Cam Cameron, using the call-sign MM0UKI intrepid serial activators Nobby Styles G0VJG on SSB, and Emil Bergmann DL8JJ/LZ2EN on CW will take a pair of FT857, a spare KX2, Spiderbeams, verticals and a generator atop the 784 square meter rock, barely 17 meters above the water at its highest point. Nobby and Emil will leave from Scotland for Rockall on the 26th of May, and plan to operate on 40m and up, also on 2m SSB and CW from the platform the size of a balcony while secured with climbing gear. Full details can be found on www.rockallexped.com .

ARDC Grant for FreeDV

The FreeDV Project, an open-source software initiative created by an international team of hams, has received \$420,000 from ARDC, short for Amateur Radio Digital Communications. With the help of digital signal processing developers, working alongside FreeDV volunteers the aim is to improve the readability of digital voice carried over SSB under poor HF conditions, improve low signal-to-noise ratio operation and improve speech quality. A special version of FreeDV is already in use over the QO-100 geostationary satellite. FreeDV is also being employed to overcome poor propagation through experimental combinations of internet and HF radio.

The Propagation Horoscope

Tom, DF5JLThe IARU writes on the IARU website that the current solar cycle 25 far exceeds the predictions of the international panel convened for this purpose in 2019. The average number of sunspots in this cycle is nearly as high as those observed during the highest peak in the last cycle, and the 10.7 GHZ flux has already exceeded the 2014 values. Last week the solar flux index hovered around 150 to 165, the MUF stayed above 28MHz most of the time, occasionally dropping somewhat during several geomagnetic storms. No significant geomagnetic disturbances are expected until Wednesday evening, promising good DX on all bands above 30m. Early Thursday morning the kP index will rise to 5 due to a moderate CME glancing the ionosphere. That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to newsteam@irts.ie for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services.

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